CLAIMS

[6000] I claim:

1	1: An improved fastener gun having a magazine holding a plurality of stacked caps,				
2	said magazine including pusher means for pushing said plurality of stacked caps through said				
3	magazine toward a first end of said magazine, said fastener gun being adapted for				
4	sequentially shooting fasteners from a nose through each of said plurality of caps; said				
5	plurality of stacked caps having a leading cap adjacent said first end of said magazine; said				
6	leading cap having a leading portion and a trailing portion;				
7	wherein the improvement comprises a cap feeding apparatus in combination with said				
8	fastener gun, said cap feeding apparatus comprising:				
9	(a)	a cap feeding body with a feeding chamber formed therewithin, said feeding			
10		chamber having a first end in communication with said first end of said			
11		magazine and second end adjacent said nose;			
12	(b)	retaining means, in opposition to said pusher means, for opposing emergence of			
13		said leading cap from said magazine;			
14	(c)	a shuttle mounted for reciprocation within said chamber; said shuttle having a			
15		forward edge and a rearward edge; said shuttle reciprocating between:			
16		i. a cap-receiving position in which said leading cap may emerge from said			
17		magazine into substantial coplanar relationship with said shuttle forward			
18		of said shuttle's forward edge; and			
19		ii. a cap-ejecting position in which said rearward edge of said shuttle retains			
20		said leading portion of said leading cap within said magazine;			
21		such that said rearward edge of said shuttle becomes interposed between said			
22		retaining means and said leading cap as said shuttle moves from said cap-			
23		ejecting position to said cap-receiving position.			

- 2: The improved fastener gun as recited in claim 1, in which said retaining means is a spring arm that engages said trailing portion of said leading cap when said shuttle is in said cap-ejecting position.
- 3: The improved fastener gun as recited in claim 1, in which said cap feeding
 apparatus further comprises a flipper arm mounted about an axis for pivoting movement with
 respect to said cap feeding body such that said flipper arm engages said leading cap as said
 leading cap emerges from said second end of said feeding chamber.

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1	4: An improved fastener gun having a magazine holding a plurality of stacked caps,				
2	said magazine including pusher means for pushing said plurality of stacked caps through said				
3	magazine toward a first end of said magazine, said fastener gun being adapted for				
4	sequentially shooting fasteners from a nose through each of said plurality of caps; said				
5	plurality of stacked caps having a leading cap adjacent said first end of said magazine; said				
6	leading cap having a leading portion and a trailing portion;				
7	wherein the improvement comprises a cap feeding apparatus in combination with said				
8	fastener gun, said cap feeding apparatus comprising:				
9	(a)	a cap	feeding body with a feeding chamber formed therewithin, said feeding		
10		chan	aber having a first end in communication with said first end of said		
11		maga	azine and second end adjacent said nose;		
12	(b)	a shu	attle mounted for reciprocation within said chamber; said shuttle having a		
13		forw	ard edge and a rearward edge; said shuttle reciprocating between:		
14		i.	a cap-receiving position in which said leading cap may emerge from said		
15			magazine into substantial coplanar relationship with said shuttle forward		
16			of said shuttle's forward edge; and		
17		ii.	a cap-ejecting position in which said leading cap is pushed by said shuttle		
18			forward edge to emerge from said feeding chamber in a feed direction; and		

- forward edge to emerge from said feeding chamber in a feed direction; and
- a flipper arm mounted about an axis for pivoting movement with respect to said (c) cap feeding body such that said flipper arm engages said leading cap as said leading cap emerges from said second end of said feeding chamber and causes said leading cap to flip about a flipping axis transverse to said feed direction.
- 5: The improved fastener gun as recited in claim 4, in which leading cap is flipped substantially ninety degrees by said flipper arm.

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1	6: An improved fastener gun having a magazine holding a plurality of stacked caps,			
2	said magazine including pusher means for pushing said plurality of stacked caps through said			
3	magazine to	magazine toward a first end of said magazine, said fastener gun being adapted for		
4	sequentially	sequentially shooting fasteners from a nose through each of said plurality of caps; said		
5	plurality of stacked caps having a leading cap adjacent said first end of said magazine; said			
6	leading cap having a leading portion and a trailing portion;			
7	wherein the improvement comprises a cap feeding apparatus in combination with said			
8	fastener gun, said cap feeding apparatus comprising:			
9	(a)	a cap feeding body with a feeding chamber formed therewithin, said feeding		
10		chamber having a first end in communication with said first end of said		
11		magazine and second end adjacent said nose;		
12	(b)	retaining means, in opposition to said pusher means, for opposing emergence of		
13		said leading cap from said magazine;		
14	(c)	a shuttle mounted for reciprocation within said chamber; said shuttle having a		
15		forward edge and a rearward edge; said shuttle reciprocating between:		
16		i. a cap-receiving position in which said leading cap may emerge from said		
17		magazine into substantial coplanar relationship with said shuttle forward		
18		of said shuttle's forward edge; and		
19		ii. a cap-ejecting position in which said rearward edge of said shuttle retains		
20		said leading portion of said leading cap within said magazine while said		
21		leading cap is pushed by said shuttle forward edge to emerge from said		
22		feeding chamber in a feed direction;		
23		such that said rearward edge of said shuttle becomes interposed between said		
24		retaining means and said leading cap as said shuttle moves from said cap-		
25		ejecting position to said cap-receiving position; and		
26	(d)	a flipper arm mounted about an axis for pivoting movement with respect to said		

27	cap feeding body such that said flipper arm engages said leading cap as said
28	leading cap emerges from said second end of said feeding chamber and causes
29	said leading cap to flip about a flipping axis transverse to said feed direction.
1	7: The improved fastener gun as recited in claim 4, in which leading cap is flipped
2	substantially ninety degrees by said flipper arm.